

Patent Abstracts of Japan

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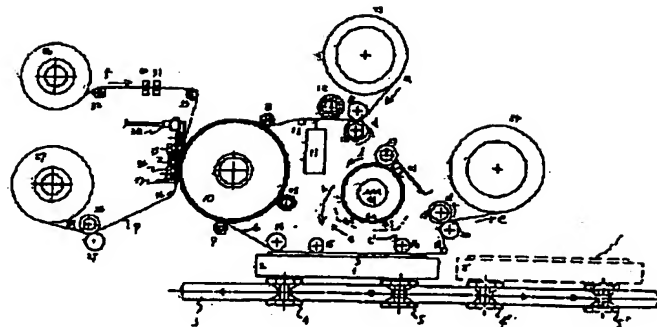
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TITLE : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS



**ABSTRACT :** **PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide an image forming apparatus capable of not being affected by an ambient temperature of the apparatus, of hardly being affected by heat accumulating or heat radiation at a portion in the vicinity of a heating position when thermal transfer recording is executed, of obtaining stable image forming performance and of markedly improving sensitivity for image writing in terms of thermal transfer recording by melting transferring.

**SOLUTION:** When an image is written to an intermediate transfer medium based on image information, a thermal transfer recording medium having a coloring layer for thermal transfer recording containing pigments as a coloring material and a thermal head are used. A means for executing gradation representing by varying an area of the coloring layer to be melted and transferred and an image transferring means for transferring the image from the intermediate transfer medium to a transferring body by heating and pressing the intermediate transfer medium to the transferring body are provided. A thermistor heater 35 having a self temperature controlling property capable of being preheated is provided at a portion in the vicinity of a heating section on the thermal head.

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